Halifax West Renovations Announced

Department of Education

News Releases

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Education Minister Jane Purves announced today that a major renovation project for Halifax West High School will proceed immediately. The project will quickly address air quality and structural problems in the building.

"We are pleased to go ahead with some major improvements for Halifax West," said Ms. Purves. "This renovation project will enhance the school in many ways."

The decision responds to the findings of an Aug. 3, 2000, consultant's report, which identified structural problems that have caused mould growth in some areas of the school. An $8-million plan to renovate and upgrade the school was approved by the province on Thursday, Aug. 3.

The Halifax regional school board, in co-operation with the Department of Education, recently completed an environmental assessment of Halifax West with the assistance of Dr. Tang Lee of the University of Calgary, the principal investigator. As well, regular consultation has occurred with officials from other government departments.

While little mould was found in interior spaces, and air quality is within acceptable health levels, the report recommends significant renovations. Halifax West is about 40-years-old and accommodates 900 students in 32 classrooms.

"I'm very pleased that the minister has responded with support for Halifax West. The resources to be provided will go a long way towards ensuring that students have a safe, healthy and secure place to learn," said David Reid, superintendent of schools at the Halifax regional school board.

Board staff are working on plans to provide accommodation for Halifax West students during the renovation. An information meeting for parents and students is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10, at Fairview Heights Junior High, 155 Rosedale Ave.

Ms. Purves felt immediate action was required at Halifax West because it could not be occupied by students. The Department of Education, in collaboration with school boards, will continue developing a provincial list of renovation projects through the school capital construction committee.

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Halifax West High School is receiving a major facelift.

Renovations will begin immediately to fix structural problems. Water leakage has also caused mould to form in some areas.

Education Minister Jane Purves says the eight-million-dollar project will also provide a number of upgrades for the 40-year-old building.

An information meeting for parents and students will be held at 7 p.m. next Thursday (August 10th) at Fairview Heights Junior High, 155 Rosedale Avenue.

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